



U.S. ramps up vaccinations to get doses to more Americans

By LISA MARIE PANE, PATTY NIEBERG and JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

The U.S. is entering the second month of the biggest vaccination drive in history with a major expansion of the campaign, opening football stadiums, major league ballparks, fairgrounds and convention centers to inoculate a larger and more diverse pool of people. After a frustratingly slow rollout involving primarily health care workers and nursing home residents, states are moving on to the next phase before the first one is complete, making shots available to such groups as senior citizens, teachers, bus drivers, police officers and firefighters.

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In this Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021, file photo, Medical professionals from Oregon Health & Science University load syringes with the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at a drive-thru vaccination clinic in Portland, Ore.

Associated Press



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U.S. ramps up vaccinations to get doses to more Americans

Continued from Front

"It gives you hope," said David Garvin, a New Yorker who turns 80 next weekend and got a vaccination at a city-run site in Brooklyn on Monday, the first day the state made people over 75 eligible along with various front-line workers. "I've been in my room for six months."

In Southern California, 41-year-old nurse Julieann Sparks received a shot through her car window at a drive-thru vaccination site that opened in a parking lot near the San Diego Padres' baseball stadium. "It really truly was a hassle-free experience," she said. After receiving a vaccination, drivers had to stay there for 15 minutes so that they could be watched for any reaction.

Similarly, in Britain, where a more contagious variant of the virus is raging out of control and deaths are soaring, seven large-scale vaccination sites opened Monday at such places as a big convention center in London, a racecourse in Surrey and a tennis and soccer complex in Manchester.

Across the U.S., where the outbreak has entered its most lethal phase yet and the death toll has climbed to about 375,000, politicians and health officials have complained over the past several days that too many shots were sitting unused on the shelves because of overly rigid adherence to the federal guidelines that put an estimated 24 million health care workers and nursing home residents at the front of the line.

About 9 million Americans have received their first shot, or 2.7% of the U.S. population, according to the Centers for Disease



In this Friday, Jan. 8, 2021, file photo, health care workers prepare to give COVID-19 vaccinations at a former Sears store turned in to a vaccination site, in Rockaway, N.J.

Associated Press

Control and Prevention. Experts say as much as 85% of the population will have to be inoculated to achieve "herd immunity" and vanquish the outbreak.

Many states are responding by throwing open the line to other groups and ramping up the pace of vaccinations, in some cases offering them 24-7.

In California, one of the deadliest hot spots in the U.S., the drive-thru operation outside the San Diego ballpark is gearing up to inoculate 5,000 health care workers a day. Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles will also be pressed into service by the end of the week, with officials saying it will be able to vaccinate 12,000 people per day when it is fully running.

At the same time, California hit another gloomy milestone, surpassing a death toll of 30,000. It took the state six months to record its first 10,000 deaths but barely a month to go from 20,000 to 30,000. Over

the weekend, California reported a two-day record of 1,163 deaths. Hospitals are reaching the breaking point.

About 584,000 doses have been administered in California, or about 1.5% of the population.

Arizona, with the highest COVID-19 diagnosis rate in the U.S., began dispensing vaccinations Monday in a drive-thru, round-the-clock operation at the suburban Phoenix stadium that is home to the NFL's Arizona Cardinals. Shots are being offered to people 75 and older, teachers, police and firefighters.

In Texas, vaccine megasites opened at the Alamodome in San Antonio and on the Texas state fairground in Dallas. Nearly 4,000 people were vaccinated Saturday at Minute Maid Park, the home of baseball's Houston Astros.

Detroit's call center was jammed with more than 100,000 calls Monday as the city took appointments

for shots at the downtown TCF convention center, starting Wednesday. Officials plan to schedule 20,000 appointments over the next month for people 75 and older. Police officers and bus drivers can start getting vaccinated there at the end of the week.

"We do not have the capacity to answer questions from people under 75 or non-Detroiters about vaccinations in general," said Detroit's chief operating officer, Hakim Berry. "If you are not eligible, please do not tie up the call lines."

The slow first stage of the U.S. campaign has been blamed in part on inadequate funding and guidance from Washington and a multitude of logistical hurdles at the state and local level that have caused confusion and disorganization.

As Colorado moves into its next phase of vaccine distribution for people 70 and older, frustration is building among senior citizens who

say they have received little or no direct communication from local public health officials.

Joyce Ballotti, 85, and her 94-year-old husband went to a vaccination site in Pueblo, Colorado, on Monday that was supposed to begin at 9 a.m. But around 8:45 a.m., they were turned away because it had run out of vaccine.

"When we saw that exit locked, we said, 'Uh-oh, the city has screwed up again,'" Ballotti said.

A police officer managing traffic waved them away, and they received no guidance on other vaccine sites. Ballotti said she is angry and frustrated about the process.

"I'm about ready to get it not at all," she said, noting that the couple's son had taken off from work to drive them. "I can't ask my son to spend his time on fruitless errands."

There were snags as well in Georgia, where the plan to expand access to people over 65 got off to a rocky start. The websites of at least two public health districts crashed Monday, and other districts reported overwhelming demand for appointments.

Florida, the longtime retirement haven with one of the biggest concentrations of elderly people in the country, is using Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens to dispense shots.

A little over 402,000 doses have been administered in Florida since mid-December, or just under 2% of its population.

Rather than wait for the first designated group of recipients under the federal guidelines to get their shots, Gov. Ron DeSantis has moved to open up vaccinations to people 65 and over. □

Data snags cause Trump to miss giving Congress census data

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

The Trump administration has missed a deadline for giving Congress numbers used for dividing up congressional seats among the states, as the U.S. Census Bureau works toward fixing data irregularities found during the numbers-crunching phase of the 2020 census.

President Donald Trump on Sunday missed a deadline for transmitting the apportionment numbers to Congress. Under federal law, the president is required to hand over the numbers to Congress showing the number of people in each state within the first week of the start of Congress in the year following a once-a-decade head count of every U.S. resident. There are no penalties for missing the deadline.

The president's tardiness stemmed from the Commerce Department, which oversees the Census Bureau, missing a year-end target date for giving the

apportionment numbers to the president, due to the pandemic and irregularities that were discovered while crunching data from the 2020 census on a shortened schedule.

The census not only decides how many congressional seats each state gets based on population, but it also determines the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in federal funding each year.

The earliest date the apportionment numbers will be ready is Feb. 9, as the Census Bureau fixes anomalies discovered during data processing, according to Department of Justice, which is representing the Commerce Department and Census Bureau in a lawsuit filed by a coalition of municipalities and advocacy groups in federal court in San Jose, California.

If that date holds, the Census Bureau will not finish processing the numbers until several weeks after Trump leaves office Jan. 20, putting in jeopardy an

unprecedented order by the president to exclude people in the country illegally from those figures. President-elect Joe Biden opposes the order, which was inspired by an influential GOP adviser who wrote that excluding them from the apportionment process would favor Republicans and non-Hispanic whites.

Last week, Biden announced that Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo will be his nominee for Commerce Secretary, which would make her responsible for the final 2020 census numbers instead of current Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, if census data-processing continues past Jan. 20.

Trump's apportionment order was challenged in more than a half-dozen lawsuits around the U.S., but the Supreme Court ruled last month that any challenge was premature. The San Jose lawsuit was originally brought by a coalition of municipalities and advocacy groups that had



A briefcase of a census taker is seen as she knocks on the door of a residence Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2020, in Winter Park, Fla. A half-million census takers head out en masse this week to knock on the doors of households that haven't yet responded to the 2020 census.

Associated Press

sued the Trump administration in order to stop the census from ending early out of concerns that a shortened head count would cause minority communities to be undercounted.

The coalition of municipalities and advocacy groups currently is seeking data and documents to help assess the accuracy of the 2020 census, saying a shortened timeline for process-

ing the data will compromise its quality.

The coalition says Department of Justice attorneys have repeatedly refused to turn over court-ordered documents, and the coalition is seeking sanctions of \$5,000 a day until they do so. The Department of Justice says sanctions are inappropriate. A hearing in the lawsuit was being held late Monday. □

Bar association seeks Giuliani ban over 'combat' remarks

By MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Rudy Giuliani is facing possible expulsion from the New York State Bar Association over incendiary remarks he made to President Donald Trump's supporters last week before they violently stormed the U.S. Capitol.

The organization said Monday that it has opened an inquiry into whether Giuliani should remain a member. Its bylaws state that "no person who advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States" shall remain a member.

Removal from the bar association, a voluntary membership organization dating to 1876, is not the same as being disbarred and banned from practicing law. That can only be done by the courts.

A message seeking comment was left with Giuliani's spokesperson. The bar association said he will be afforded due process and be



In this Jan. 6, 2021 file photo former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani speaks in Washington at a rally in support of President Donald Trump, called the "Save America Rally."

Associated Press

given a chance to explain and defend his words and actions. Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City, is Trump's personal lawyer and has played a prominent role in the Republican

president's spurious fight to overturn his election loss to President-elect Joe Biden, a Democrat. The bar association said it has received hundreds of complaints about Giuliani's work to

perpetuate Trump's baseless voter fraud claims, which culminated in fiery remarks last Wednesday in Washington as Congress met to count Biden's Electoral College win. Among

the people calling for the bar association to remove Giuliani were U.S. Reps. Mondaire Jones, D-N.Y., and Ted Lieu, D-Calif., who send a letter to the organization last week saying that his actions were "absolutely disqualifying from remaining in good standing." The bar association said in a statement that Giuliani's words "quite clearly were intended to encourage Trump supporters unhappy with the election's outcome to take matters into their own hands." The group condemned the violence at the Capitol, calling it "nothing short of an attempted coup, intended to prevent the peaceful transition of power."

"We cannot stand idly by and allow those intent on rending the fabric of our democracy to go unchecked," the organization said in a statement. The bar association isn't the only organization reconsidering its ties to Giuliani. □

Woman set to die for killing woman, cutting baby from womb

By **HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH**

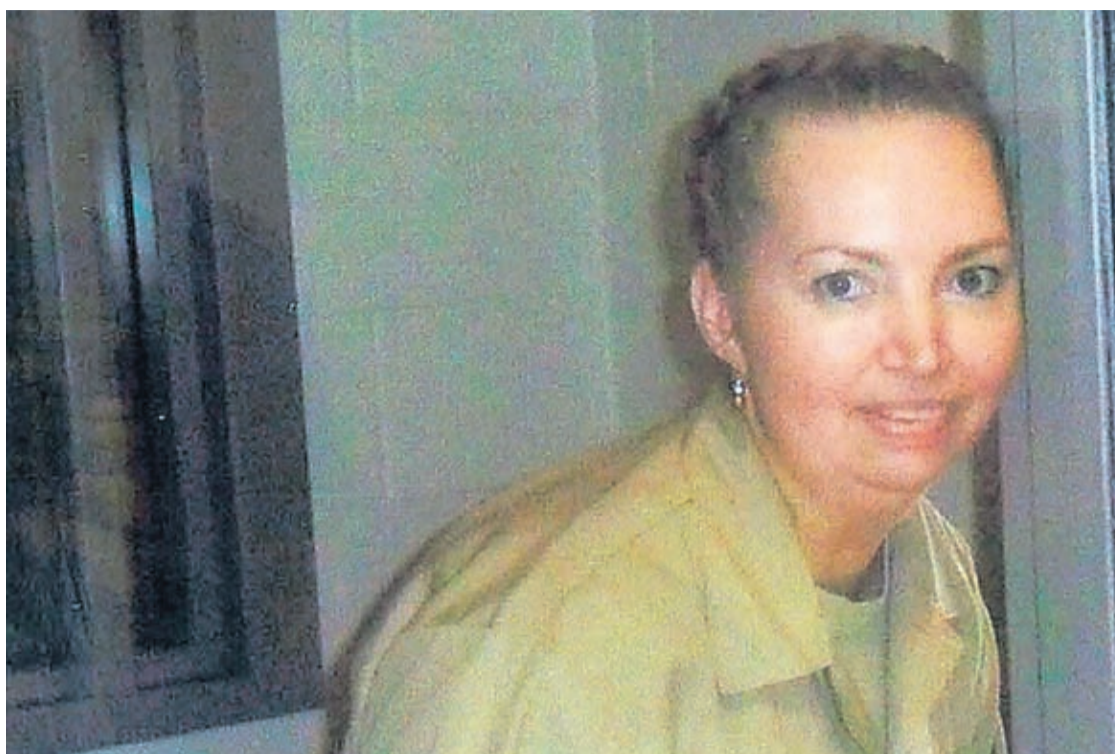
Associated Press

MISSION, Kan. (AP) —

Becky Harper sobbed as she spoke to a Missouri dispatcher after stumbling across her expectant daughter in a pool of blood, her womb slashed open and the child she had been carrying missing. "It's like she exploded or something," Harper told the dispatcher on Dec. 16, 2004, during the desperate yet futile attempt to get help for her daughter, Bobbie Jo Stinnett, who had been eight months pregnant.

Lisa Montgomery, who strangled Stinnett with a rope before performing a crude cesarean and fleeing with the baby, awaits execution Tuesday, just eight days before the presidential inauguration of death penalty opponent Joe Biden. If the lethal injection is carried out as scheduled at the Federal Correctional Complex in Terre Haute, Indiana, Montgomery would be the first woman executed by the federal government in about six decades.

Montgomery drove about 170 miles (273.59 kilometers) from her Melvern, Kansas, farmhouse to the northwest Missouri town of Skidmore under the guise of adopting a rat terrier puppy from



This undated file image provided by Attorneys for Lisa Montgomery shows Lisa Montgomery. **Associated Press**

Stinnett, a 23-year-old dog breeder.

She was arrested the next day after showing off the premature infant, Victoria Jo, as her own. She is now 16 years old and hasn't spoken publicly about about the tragedy.

"As we walked across the threshold our Amber Alert was scrolling across the TV at that very moment," recalled Randy Strong, who was part of the northwest Missouri major case squad at the time.

He looked to his right and saw Montgomery holding the newborn and was awash in relief when she

handed her over to law enforcement. The preceding hours had been a blur in which he photographed Stinnett's body and spent a sleepless night looking for clues — unsure of whether the baby was dead or alive and no idea what she looked like.

But then tips began arriving about Montgomery, who had a history of faking pregnancies and suddenly had a baby. Strong, now the sheriff of Nodaway County, where the killing happened, hopped in an unmarked car with another officer. He learned while en route that the email ad-

dress fischer4kids@hotmail.com that was used to set up the deadly meeting with Stinnett had been sent from a dial-up connection at Montgomery's home.

"I absolutely knew I was walking into the killer's home," recalled Strong, saying rat terriers ran around his feet as he approached her house. Like Stinnett, Montgomery also raised rat terriers.

Prosecutors said her motive was that her ex-husband knew she had undergone a tubal ligation that made her sterile and planned to reveal she was lying about being pregnant in an effort

to get custody of two of their four children. Needing a baby before a fast-approaching court date, Montgomery turned her focus on Stinnett, whom she had met at dog shows.

Montgomery's lawyers, though, have argued that sexual abuse during Montgomery's childhood led to mental illness. Her stepfather denied the sexual abuse in videotaped testimony and said he didn't have a good memory when confronted with a transcript of a divorce proceeding in which he admitted some physical abuse. Her mother testified that she never filed a police complaint because he had threatened her and her children.

But the jurors who heard the case, some crying through the gruesome testimony, disregarded the defense in convicting her of kidnapping resulting in death.

Prosecutors argued that Stinnett regained consciousness and tried to defend herself as Montgomery used a kitchen knife to cut the baby girl from her womb. Later that day, Montgomery called her husband to pick her up in the parking lot of a Long John Silver's in Topeka, Kansas, telling him she had delivered the baby earlier in the day at a nearby birthing center. □



Family members hold a snow ball fight beside the skate park at Rose Park in Abilene, Texas Sunday Jan. 10, 2020.

Associated Press

A winter storm has brought snow to parts of the U.S. South, moving into Alabama, Tennessee and northern Georgia on Monday after blowing across

Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi the day before. The blanket of white falling across the region forced some school and government office closures, and

Winter storm coats Southern states with blanket of snow

fostered some play time for adults and children cooped up in the pandemic. As many as 6 inches (15 centimeters) of snow fell across parts of southern Texas, the National Weather Service in Houston reported Sunday night. The snow contributed to slick roads and power outages, but some families took time to enjoy the weather in areas like Austin and College Station. The system moved into Louisiana and Mississippi during the nighttime hours, with Louisiana State Police warning people in an online video to stay off

the roads if possible.

By Monday morning, a light dusting covered grassy and elevated surfaces across northern Alabama and southern Tennessee. About two dozen public school systems delayed classes or closed in Alabama, and transportation officials reported wrecks in areas that received wintry precipitation overnight.

As much as 2.5 inches (6.35 centimeters) of snow fell northwest of Birmingham, Alabama, forecasters said, and bridges were icy in spots. The weather service said snow could mix with

rain in north Georgia. Snowfall totals of about 4 inches (10 centimeters) were expected for areas between Center, Texas, and Natchitoches, Louisiana, KSLA-TV reported. State government offices in 29 parishes will be closed Monday — including in Caddo Parish, where Shreveport is located — according to The Advocate.

More than 110,000 customers in Texas and over 50,000 customers in Louisiana were without power early Monday morning, according to poweroutage.us, a utility tracking website. □

Pope says women can read at Mass, but still can't be priests

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis changed church law Monday to explicitly allow women to do more things during Mass, granting them access to the most sacred place on the altar, while continuing to affirm that they cannot be priests.

Francis amended the law to formalize and institutionalize what is common practice in many parts of the world: Women can be installed as lectors, to read Scripture, and serve on the altar as eucharistic ministers. Previously, such roles were officially reserved to men even though exceptions were made.

Francis said he was making the change to increase recognition of the "precious contribution" women make in the church, while emphasizing that all baptized Catholics have a role to play in the church's mission.

But he also noted that doing so further makes a distinction between "ordained" ministries such as the priesthood and diaconate, and ministries open to qualified laity. The Vatican reserves



In this file photo dated Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020, Pope Francis holds his pastoral staff as he arrives to celebrate Mass, at St. Peter's Basilica.

the priesthood for men.

The change comes as Francis remains under pressure to allow women to be deacons — ministers who perform many of the same functions as priests, such as presiding at weddings, baptisms and funerals. Currently, the ministry is reserved for men even though historians say the ministry was performed by

women in the early church. Francis has created a second commission of experts to study whether women could be deacons, after a first one reported on the history of women deacons in the early church.

Advocates for expanding the diaconate to include women say doing so would give women greater say in the ministry and gover-

nance of the church, while also helping address priest shortages in several parts of the world.

Opponents say allowing it would become a slippery slope toward ordaining women to the priesthood. Phyllis Zagano, who was a member of the pope's first study commission, called the changes important given they represent the first

time the Vatican has explicitly and through canon law allowed women access to the altar. She said it was a necessary first step before any official consideration of the diaconate for women.

"This is the first codification of allowing women inside the sanctuary," said Zagano. "That's a very big deal." Noting that bishops have long called for such a move, she said it opens the door to further progress. "You can't be ordained as deacons unless you're installed as lectors or acolytes," said Zagano, an adjunct professor of religion at Hofstra University.

Lucetta Scaraffia, the former editor of the Vatican's women magazine, however, called the new changes a "double trap."

She said they merely formalize what is current practice, including at papal Masses, while also making clear that the diaconate is an "ordained" ministry reserved for men.

"This closes the door on the diaconate for women," she said in a phone interview, calling the change "a step backward" for women. □

Associated Press

Snow, heavy rain in Balkans cause floods, disrupt traffic

By JOVANA GEC

Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Days of heavy rain and snow across the Balkans left homes and fields flooded Monday, disrupted traffic on highways and at ports and caused power outages.

In Serbia, authorities on Monday started clearing up tons of garbage that was clogging a southwestern lake after it was swept off from landfills by overflowing rivers. Emergency measures were announced in the southern Doljevac and Vlasotince municipalities, where rescue teams helped more than two dozen people evacuate their homes.

The state RTS television reported that numerous homes, barns and fields were flooded and villages were left without drink-

ing water after days of rain and snow around the southern town of Leskovac and nearby areas.

In central and eastern Serbia, thousands of people were left without electricity as heavy snow collapsed distribution lines. Serbia's state power company EPS said Monday they were working to restore power. Authorities urged drivers not to take to the road unless absolutely necessary because of heavy snow.

Traffic disruptions and speed limits due to snow were reported in Croatia, where a bus overturned early Monday on the main east-west highway, injuring eight people.

Floods were reported in Albania and Kosovo, where days of heavy rain mixed with snowy weather.

Thousands of acres of land were flooded in western

Albania and bridges and roads have been damaged, leaving villages isolated and forcing emergency deliveries of water to hundreds of people.

Power outages were also reported, which meant that some schools could not reopen Monday as authorities struggled to handle water levels at the main hydropower system on the Drini River. The army, police and local emergency teams stepped in to assist isolated residents in Shkoder, Lezha and Dures, where major flooding in 2010 caused devastation. In Kosovo, officials were talking with NATO-led peacekeepers over how to help flood-hit areas in the west where people have been forced to evacuate their homes. A house in the village of Fushe belonging to 60-year-old Muj Zabeli



Ducks pass a flooded yard as a dog watches, after heavy rainfalls in Obot village, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) northwest of Tirana, Albania, Monday, Jan. 11, 2021.

Associated Press

was flooded and seriously damaged, but Zabeli said he was getting little help. "No one is interested," he complained. "You may suffer a loss here and no one would care."

Slippery roads and strong winds prompted authorities to ban trucks with trailers and double-decker buses on some roads, as many Adriatic Sea ferry connections were halted.

The snow has made the situation even harder for residents in central Croatia, which was hit by a major earthquake on Dec. 29. Many people cannot stay in their damaged homes and have been sleeping in containers.

Heavy rains further south in Montenegro damaged a fortress wall in the southern town of Ulcinj, near the border with Albania. □

China denies coercive birth control measures in Xinjiang

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese official on Monday denied Beijing has imposed coercive birth control measures among Muslim minority women, following an outcry over a tweet by the Chinese Embassy in Washington claiming that government police had freed women of the Uighur ethnic group from being “baby-making machines.”

Xu Guixiang, a deputy spokesperson for the Xinjiang regional government, told reporters Monday that birth control decisions were made of the person's own free will and that “no organization or individual can interfere.”

“The growth rate of the Uighur population is not only higher than that of the whole Xinjiang population, but also higher than that of the minority population, and more significantly higher than that of the (Chinese majority) Han population,” Xu said. “As for the so-called forcing ethnic minority women in Xinjiang to wear IUDs, or undergo tubal ligations or abortions, it is even more malign.”

An Associated Press investigation in June found that the Chinese government was forcing draconian birth control measures on



Xu Guixiang, a deputy spokesperson for the Xinjiang regional government, looks up near a slide showing a photo of Uighur infants during a press conference to refute accusations of genocide in Beijing, China.

Uighurs, Kazakhs, and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang, including IUD fittings, contraceptives, and even abortions and sterilizations. The measures are backed by the threat of detention, with parents with three or more children swept into camps and prisons if they're unable to pay massive fines. As a result, the birth rate in Xinjiang's minority regions plummeted by over 60% in just three

years, even as Beijing eases birth restrictions on the Han population ahead of a looming demographic crisis.

Twitter took down the Chinese Embassy's Jan. 7 tweet following protests by groups that accuse Beijing of seeking to eradicate Uighur culture. Users complained the tweet was a violation of rules set by Twitter, which is blocked in China along with Facebook

and other American social media platforms.

“China's fascist government is now openly admitting and celebrating its use of concentration camps, forced labor, forced sterilizations and abortions, and other forms of torture to eliminate an ethnic and religious minority,” Nihad Awad, national executive director of The Council on American-Islamic Relations, said in an emailed

statement. China has been waging a years-long campaign against what it calls terrorism and religious fanaticism in Xinjiang and the embassy's tweet referenced those policies, saying: “Study shows that in the process of eradicating extremism, the minds of Uygur women in Xinjiang were emancipated and gender equality and reproductive health were promoted, making them no longer baby-making machines.”

The tweet cited a study by Li Xiaoxia, a Xinjiang Academy of Social Sciences researcher who has asserted that the birth control measures in Xinjiang are voluntary.

Monday's news conference was the latest attempt by Beijing to deflect rising international criticism over its policies in Xinjiang, particularly over alleged forced labor and the detention of more than 1 million Uighurs, Kazakhs and others in prison-like centers for political indoctrination. China says the centers are intended to combat extremism and teach job skills, but former residents and rights groups say they target Islam and minority languages and culture. □

Associated Press

Israel announces new settler homes, risking Biden's anger



In this Nov. 16, 2020 file photo, workers take a break before European Union officials visit the construction site for Givat Hamatos settlement in Jerusalem.

Associated Press

By JOSEPH KRAUSS
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel on Monday advanced plans to build 800 new settler homes in the occupied West Bank, a move that

could strain ties with the incoming administration of President-elect Joe Biden. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office announced the move, saying it would include 100 homes

in a settlement where an Israeli woman was killed last month in an attack allegedly carried out by a Palestinian assailant.

The announcement will burnish Netanyahu's right-wing credentials in a tough campaign ahead of March elections, but it could anger Biden, who is opposed to settlement expansion and has clashed with Israel over it in the past.

Israel captured the West Bank and east Jerusalem in the 1967 war, territories the Palestinians want for their future state. Nearly 500,000 Israelis live in settlements scattered across the West Bank.

The Palestinians view settlements as a violation of international law and an obstacle to peace, a posi-

tion with wide international support. The Palestinian Authority's Foreign Ministry condemned the latest announcement, accusing Israel of “racing against time” to build settlements before President Donald Trump leaves office.

Trump's administration provided unprecedented support to Israel, including by abandoning a decades-old U.S. policy of opposing settlements. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last year became the first top U.S. diplomat to visit a West Bank settlement.

Biden has pledged a more even-handed approach in which he will restore aid to the Palestinians that was cut off by Trump and work to revive peace negotiations. The two sides have

not held substantive peace talks in more than a decade.

The greatest threat to Netanyahu in the coming vote comes from the right, where Gideon Saar, a former ally and staunch supporter of settlements, has broken away and vowed to end his long rule. Polls show Netanyahu's Likud winning the most votes but falling short of a majority coalition in Israel's 120-seat Knesset, or parliament.

The announcement said 100 homes would be built in Tel Manashe, a West Bank settlement where Esther Horgan, a 53-year-old mother of six, was killed last month while jogging in a nearby forest. Israel says it has detained a Palestinian suspect in the attack. □

Aid agencies fear impact in Yemen after U.S. terror decision

By **MAGGIE MICHAEL** and
SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP)—Aid agencies were thrown into confusion Monday over the Trump administration's out-the-door decision to designate Yemen's Iranian-backed rebels as a terror organization, which they warned could wreck the tenuous relief system keeping millions alive in a country already near famine in the world's worst humanitarian disaster. The designation is to take effect on President Donald Trump's last full day in office, a day before President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration on Jan. 20. Several aid groups pleaded on Monday for Biden to immediately reverse the designation. The Biden transition team has not yet expressed his intentions.

"Acting on day one cannot only be a figure of speech," Oxfam America's Humanitarian Policy Lead Scott Paul said. "Lives hang in the balance."

Six years of war between a U.S.-backed Arab coalition and the Iranian-backed



In this Oct. 1, 2018, file photo, a woman holds a malnourished boy at the Aslam Health Center, in Hajjah, Yemen.

Houthi rebels have been catastrophic for Yemen. Most of its 30 million people rely on international aid to survive. The U.N. says 13.5 million Yemenis already face acute food insecurity, a figure that could rise to 16 million by June.

Aid agencies said Monday they were struggling to figure out the implications

of the designation, which would bring sanctions against the Houthis. Some were considering pulling out foreign staff. They warned that even if the U.S. grants humanitarian exceptions as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo promised Sunday, the move could snarl aid delivery, drive away banks and fur-

ther wreck an economy in which millions can't afford to feed themselves.

The Houthis rule the capital and Yemen's north where the majority of the population lives, forcing international aid groups to work with them. Agencies depend on the Houthis to deliver aid and pay salaries to Houthis to do so. Still,

the rebels have been implicated in stealing aid and using aid access to extort concessions and money, as well as in a catalog of human rights abuses including rape and torture of dissidents. In Iran, the Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the designation was "doomed to failure" and the U.S. would eventually have to enter negotiations with the Houthis.

The U.S. designation move is part of the Trump administration's broader effort to isolate and cripple Iran. It also shows support to its close ally, Saudi Arabia, which leads the anti-Houthi coalition in the war. Saudi Arabia has advocated the terror designation, hoping it would pressure the rebels to reach a peace deal. Past rounds of peace talks and cease-fire agreements have faltered.

The Saudi Foreign Ministry welcomed the U.S. decision, saying that it hopes the designation would force the rebels to "seriously" return to negotiating table. □

Associated Press

Uganda accuses Facebook of 'interfering' in tense polls

By **RODNEY MUHUMUZA**

Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—A Ugandan official accused Facebook of meddling in the East African country's election after several accounts linked to President Yoweri Museveni's campaign were removed for alleged inauthentic behavior. Presidential spokesman Don Wanyama told The Associated Press on Monday that Facebook's action was evidence of what Ugandan authorities see as outside support of Bobi Wine, the leading opposition candidate in presidential elections scheduled for Thursday. "Facebook is interfering in the electoral process of Uganda," he said. "If people wanted to have the evidence of outside interference, now they have it."

In a statement e-mailed



In this Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 file photo, Uganda's long-time President Yoweri Museveni attends an election rally at Kololo Airstrip in Kampala, Uganda.

to AP, Facebook said it removed a network of accounts and pages that "used fake and duplicate accounts to manage pages, comment on other people's content, impersonate users, re-share posts in groups to make them appear more popular than they were."

Given the impending election in Uganda, we moved

quickly to investigate and take down this network."

That network is linked to Uganda's Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, the statement said.

Wanyama charged that Facebook had blocked the accounts of Museveni's mobilizers, especially those who communicate in the local Luganda language. □

Associated Press

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EAGLE BACH — Aruba now offers the most entertaining movie-going experience with heart-pounding audio, awe-inspiring images and an immersive experience. IMAX is the name. But, there is way more. Grande Dame Gloria is the newest entertainment complex and has 10 cinema theaters: an IMAX, 6 comfort class theaters and 3 VIP theaters. In total offering a capacity of 1132 seats. Gloria invites you to dine at any of its three restaurants. If you prefer, grab something quick at Lettuce Eat, Cold Fusion or the ubiquitous Starbucks. "If you vacation here, this is your perfect night out with the family," says Joe Davis, Managing Director Gloria.

Davis manages not only in Aruba but also in Curacao. "Gloria is an entertainment destination. We try to create a place for people not only to watch movies but also have a night out whether that is eating dinner, enjoying drinks, watching a sport event in one of the bars downstairs or to do something with your family like see a movie and afterwards go to Stay & Play." You can get pampered in the VIP sections which have a different entrance from the rest of the complex or just sit and have a coffee. Truly, Gloria has something for everyone. "This is the most state-of-the-art movie theater in the Caribbean."

Downstairs

IMAX is a brand, Gloria agreed to a franchise where they purchased the proprietary equipment and thus offering to show movies in that format. Davis: "A larger screen, dynamic sound, amazing image that is IMAX." Upon entering the complex you encounter a food court offering P.F. Chang's (Asian food), Italian Mangiamo and the sports bar Sizzle. Starbucks, Lettuce Eat and Cold Fusion are welcoming you and for the children there's Play & Stay play court.

VIP

If you want an upscale experience, use the separate entrance to the VIP theatres. "Here you relax in a full recliner with a particular headrest, your waiter comes into the auditorium and takes your order to serve you there. If you do not want to watch a movie and just enjoy your steak and seafood we offer a very nice lounge to sit and eat, your choice. Seats are state of the art, brand-new and super comfortable with built-in tray tables, illuminated menus and a call-button for service," Davis says. Eventually they will offer valet parking as well.

Upstairs

The escalator brings you to the first floor with IMAX and 6 comfort class theaters. "Ease in very comfortable leather rockers and enjoy the large and wide screens plus perfect sound. IMAX offers wide huge chairs and a screen of 22 meters wide (71 feet) and 13 meters tall with a 10.1 Dolby Surround Sound System, amazing." Gloria takes you inside the movie, you are living it!

Covid-19 safety in place

Because of the current pandemic Gloria has the required

Joe Davis, Managing Director Gloria: "Gloria is an entertainment adventure and the most state-of-the-art movie theater in the Caribbean"

Covid-19 safety protocol in place. Social distancing is required, seats are separated and complete sanitizing is done after each movie.

Unique points

- Parking with 310 spots, near the hotels
- VIP experience
- IMAX super cinema experience
- 6 comfort class theaters
- Food Court
- Mingle with the locals
- Fun for your teens and small children (Stay & Play)
- Something different than your stan-

dard restaurant night

The company behind Gloria

Eddie de Veer is the owner of MetaCorp, a 100% Aruban company existing for 100 years and owner of Gloria. "Gloria was the first cinema theater we started on Aruba, now we do it again and we make the circle round. This is spectacular." If you visit Gloria, take a look at the short wall video showing the history of MetaCorp and their significance to the Aruban community. De Veer: "In difficult times like these we do invest in our local economy showing confidence and giving hope." □

Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association (AHATA): December occupancy was 58% lower than a year ago



ORANJESTAD — The Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association has published the latest hotel performance data reporting that in December the occupancy increased compared to the previous month, however companies that depend on tourism continue to operate at a loss.

December 2020

- Occupancy: The occupancy rate was 34.9%; a decline of 58% compared to a year ago.
- ADR: The average daily rate (for occupied rooms) decreased by 19% compared to last year, to \$276.05
- RevPAR: The revenue per available room dropped by 66% to \$96.39.

2020 average

- Occupancy: The year's average occupancy is 68% lower than last year, at a rate of 26.9%.
- RevPAR: The year's revenue per

available room, tourism's primary indicator, dropped by 63% to \$86.54.

- Total revenue dropped by 62%.

Occupancy forecast

January OCC	30%
February OCC	32%
Q1 2021 OCC	33%
2021 Avg OCC	42%

Timeshare

AHATA's Timeshare properties experienced a 56% occupancy rate in December and 37% occupancy for the year 2020. The forecast for January is 63%.

AHATA member hotels: Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, Barceló Aruba, Boardwalk Boutique Hotel, Brickell Bay Beach Club, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Courtyard by Marriott, Divi & Tamarijn All-Inclusive, Eagle Aruba Resort, Holiday Inn Resort Aruba, Hyatt Regency Aruba, Hyatt Place Aruba Airport, Manchebo Beach Resort, Marriott Aruba & Stellaris Casino, Paradera Park, Renaissance Aruba Resort, The Ritz-Carlton Aruba, RIU Palace Aruba, RIU Palace Antillas, Talk of the Town Hotel.

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Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A.): What to expect for 2021

ORANJESTAD — Since the reopening of our borders the Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A.) has been working on different forecasts of what could be expected on the amount of tourists visiting our destination. The projection for 2021 is a very optimistic, conservative and cautious one.

For 2020 there were three forecasts: Optimistically seen the year would have ended with a 40 % recovery of the total visitors compared to 2019 and in the conservative forecast it would result into a 30 % recovery. In the worst case scenario a 20 % recovery was foreseen. The results for 2020 are known by now and you can see that Aruba recovered a 33% of the total visitors compared to 2019. Just a bit over the 30% projected percentage forecasted by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) for the global tourism which forecasted a 70% decrease compared to 2019. Most visitors decided to postpone their trip based on the advice given worldwide to avoid travelling and stay home.

For 2021 the numbers of 2019 were taken into account to compare this and here we can see that the projections conduct to a tourism recovery for Aruba between 45 % and 60 %. Up till now Aruba is in line with the projected forecast which indicates a 50% recovery for 2021, but off course it all depends on the

constantly changing situation globally.

For North America, which is one of the biggest contributors of Aruba's tourism, it is anticipated that they will continue to be the biggest contributor with a market share of 80 %, followed by Europe and Latin America with 5 % and all other countries and islands with a 3 % market share.

For the cautious scenario a recovery of 45 % is projected which is a total of 515,190 visitors for 2021 and for the optimistic scenario is a 60 % recovery projected which is a total of 658,184 visitors for 2021.

There are three Key Indicators for 2021: Projections for the recovery of Cruise Tourism is between 25 % and 50 % for 2021 compared to 2019. The so called Tourism Credits is expected to have a recovery of 45 % to 60 % compared to 2019 and the Average Daily Rates (ADR) lead to a grade of recovery of 75 % compared to 2019.

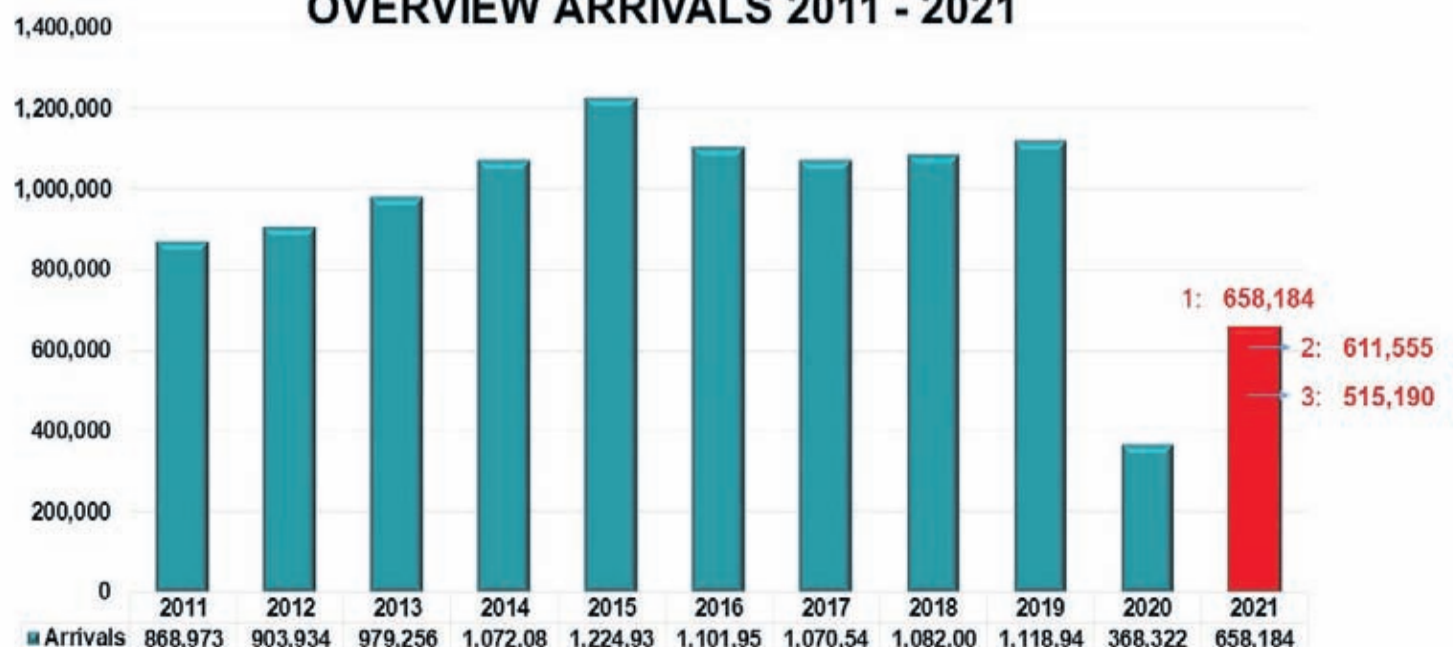
It is important to remark that the recovery of Aruba's Tourism will not go to normality for now, the recovery will happen in stages in 2021. The utmost is being done for the speed recovery but caution and good behavior of each and every one is needed seeing that the virus is still around.

The situation is and will remain changing. Aruba opened 2021 with a lockdown of the United Kingdom with the consequences of cancellations of the Non-Stop flights, which started in December 2020. Also, more and more countries are requiring a negative test result prior departure of our visitors back to their country. These restrictions are limiting our visitors in their travels. To our main contributor which is North America the amount of increasing Covid-19 cases is a big challenge and the concerned government is taking measurements which make travelling more and more difficult.

Obviously the main focus is on the vaccine for a relief. But, this also will take some time. Besides all this, the desire of travelling in our tourists remains strong amid all measurements implemented.

A.T.A. would like to thank all their partners and organizations working unfirringly for Aruba's tourism recovery. Collective and individual responsibility is of main importance to ensure the recovery of tourism and the economy of Aruba. Adhering to all protocols stated by all departments concerned is everyone's responsibility only then we will be able to overcome this virus and help Aruba's economy flourish again. □

OVERVIEW ARRIVALS 2011 - 2021



* 2021 is estimated based on expected seat capacity



Article by Etnia Nativa

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Santa Ana church in Noord

Episode LXXXVII -87

ORANJESTAD — In 1824 there were two churches in Aruba: the Church of Santa Ana in Noord and the Church of San Francisco in Schipau or ship out at Solito (Oranjestad area). Both of these churches were mud constructions or "torto," adobe". In 1825 the San Francisco church collapsed after a heavy rain and a new church was built in 1828. During 1831 a stone church was built in Noord which was "modernized" in 1886 and remained as was until 1916 when the current Church of Noord was built at some distance to the previous.

Only the Church of San Francisco had a priest, a Franciscan Father Johannes Josephus Pirovano, who in 1813 baptizes the church of Oranjestad in honor of Francisco de Assis. During that time the church of Noord did not have its own priest, Father Pirovano came from Oranjestad every Sunday to give mass in Noord.

Before his decease Pirovano made a somewhat strange request that he should not be buried before signs of decomposition had become visible. The vice-commander of Aruba consented this and thus Pirovano laid in state for three days, whilst the people were coming from far and near to pray.

Documents of that time indicates that when the Priest Pirovano died he was buried in the middle of the church of Noord from short distance to the altar. At that time the church was known by the name of Iglesia de Monte Calvario and also with the name of Santa Ana which we know up till today. Three residents of the area had the keys to the church and were responsible for taking care of it. These three inhabitants of Noord, Jan Hendrik Semeleer, Manuel Wolff and Nicolas Tromp, were qualified by the government as "caretakers of the church" and it was them whom ensured that in 1827 the current cemetery was built next to it.

Some information about two of these "church keepers" is re-



Roi at Noord

corded and so we know that Jan Hendrik Semeleer is the ancestor of all those who bear that surname in Noord. He was born in Aruba in 1788. He was the son of Maria Eleonora Semeleer and an unknown father. He had a plantation in the southern

part of the current Noord area of Koyari and Washington.

Manuel Wolff, born in Aruba in 1790, was the son of Jurrian Wolff and Johanna Catharina Alvarez, he married Ana Catharina Silvester and they had eleven children, who were born between 1813 and 1829: George Victorino, Bernardino, Jan Isaak, Domingo Antonio, Jan Hendrik, Caspart Robert, Alexander, Francisca, Nicolas, Lorenzo Jose and Jose de los Santos.

Nicolaas Tromp, born 1825, descendant of Daniel Pietersz Tromp born 1808, was the son of Jacobus Tromp born in Aruba on October 3, 1781 and of Johanna Helena Tobel. □



Oil painting of St. Anna Church

To get to know a little more regarding Aruba's and its cultural origins we highly recommend you to book your participation in our cultural encounter session.

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4 financial 'experts' who could steer you wrong

By **LIZ WESTON**
of NerdWallet

None of us knows everything we need to know about money, so we may turn to experts for help. But some money professionals who offer advice are not qualified to do so — nor are they required to put our interests ahead of theirs. Be cautious when accepting advice from the following sources.

THE DEALERSHIP ABOUT HOW LONG YOUR AUTO LOAN SHOULD BE

The dealership wants to sell you a car. To make the payments more affordable, you may be offered a loan that lasts six, seven or even eight years.

Longer loans can get you smaller monthly payments, but they cost more overall, since you'll pay more interest. You'll also likely spend several years "upside down," or owing more than your vehicle is worth. As the car ages, you could easily face big repair bills while still making payments. If you needed to sell the car, you would have to come up with money to pay off the loan. Alternatively, you could roll the negative equity into your next car purchase, but that would make your next loan even more expensive.

A BETTER APPROACH: Limit your auto loans to a maxi-



Liz Weston is a columnist at NerdWallet

Associated Press

mum of five years for new cars or three years for used cars. A 20% down payment can help you avoid negative equity, as well. Consider getting pre-approved for a loan from your local credit union or bank or an online lender. That can help you withstand the dealership trying to pressure you into expensive financing.

MORTGAGE PROS ABOUT HOW MUCH HOUSE YOU CAN AFFORD

Good mortgage brokers or loan officers can be invaluable in helping you navigate a complicated process and understand the guidelines that lenders use to determine how big of a loan you can qualify for. But they can't tell you how big of a loan you can

comfortably afford. Neither can your real estate agent, for that matter.

True affordability will depend on a lot of factors that aren't captured in your application, including when you want to retire and how much you want to save for other goals such as a child's education.

There's also your comfort level. Some people are fine borrowing the maximum, because they believe their finances will only get better. Others prefer to borrow more conservatively.

A BETTER APPROACH: Use online calculators to estimate how much to save for retirement and other goals. Then include those figures in your monthly expenses when using a mortgage affordability calculator. Or consult a fiduciary adviser, such as a certified financial planner, accredited financial counselor or accredited financial coach. "Fiduciary" means obligated to put your best interests first. Most financial advisers aren't fiduciaries, so make sure to ask.

STOCKBROKERS ABOUT WHETHER TO ROLL OVER YOUR 401(K)

A stockbroker may tell you that rolling your old 401(k) account into an individual retirement account gives you many more investment options, and that's typically

true. But IRAs can cost you more, and 401(k)s have better consumer protections.

Stockbrokers want to sell you investments that earn them commissions. Typically, they have no responsibility to make sure those investments are in your best interest. By contrast, a 401(k) administrator is a fiduciary, so it's required to put your interests first and provide good investment options at a reasonable cost. Many 401(k)s offer access to ultra-low-cost institutional funds that aren't available in an IRA.

In addition, your entire 401(k) balance is protected from creditors. By contrast, your protections with an IRA depend on state law. Many states exempt only an amount "reasonably necessary for support" — which means in some cases, creditors potentially could get it all.

A BETTER APPROACH: Leave the money where it is if you like the old 401(k)'s investment options, or roll it into a new employer's plan if that's allowed. Otherwise, roll the money into an IRA at a discount brokerage. If you need help with how to invest it, consult a fiduciary adviser.

SOCIAL SECURITY ABOUT WHEN TO CLAIM BENEFITS

You can collect Social Se-

curity as early as age 62, but your monthly benefit increases the longer you delay applying until it maxes out at age 70. Multiple studies have shown that most people will collect more over their lifetimes if they delay filing. It's particularly important for the higher earner in a married couple to delay, because that benefit determines what the survivor will get once the first spouse dies. Unfortunately, Social Security Administration employees sometimes advise people to start early — even though Social Security employees aren't supposed to give advice.

Applicants have been told, for example, that it doesn't matter when they start benefits because the amounts paid out over their lifetimes will be the same. That's a misinterpretation of Social Security's attempt to be "actuarially neutral," or have the system pay out the same amount in total regardless of when people claim benefits.

A BETTER APPROACH: A Social Security claiming calculator can help you figure out when to start benefits. AARP has a free one, while more sophisticated versions are available starting at \$20 at Social Security Solutions or \$40 at Maximize My Social Security. □

Insider Q&A: Bitcoin's massive rise and what comes next

By **KEN SWEET**
AP Business Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The digital currency Bitcoin rocketed to a record high last week above \$40,000 a coin. This comes after the currency languished for two years, plummeting from the previous high of \$19,000 reached back in December 2018, when Bitcoin was subject to another round of media hype and investor interest.

Mike Venuto is co-portfolio manager for the Amplify Transformational Data Sharing ETF, a \$391 million fund that focuses on companies that trade and develop uses for Bitcoin and other digital currencies, as well as the technology be-

hind the currency, known as the blockchain.

He spoke to The Associated Press about Bitcoin's recent rise and what's different this time for the currency:

Q: Tell us a little bit about the fund.

A: We're an actively managed fund, because things in blockchain and this space are changing all the time it would be impossible to build a passively managed fund. We invest in blockchain companies, miners, and other companies in the space. We hold a small amount of Bitcoin and other currencies, but mostly get our exposure through the companies we own. But we would never hold more than 5% of the

total fund in Bitcoin directly. **Q:** It took two years for Bitcoin to rally back to its record hit in late 2018. What's different this time?

A: Nothing has changed with Bitcoin in the last two years. It's still a decentralized digital currency using the blockchain created years ago. What's changed is perception. Investors are looking for safe harbors for their assets, similar to how gold and silver are used.

Q: Should investors expect Bitcoin to keep going up?

A: Bitcoin is going to remain as volatile as ever, and there will be bumps in the road. You'll see massive moves up and massive moves down. What

remains attractive are the companies who are using Bitcoin and the blockchain infrastructure to build use cases and practical applications for it.

Q: Evangelists of Bitcoin and other currencies talk about how it will replace paper money. In two years, that hasn't happened. Do you think it will ever happen?

A: The original argument for Bitcoin was it would provide the ability for the unbanked — those without bank accounts — to transact securely without a bank. Is that going to materialize? Will you be able to buy a cup of coffee with Bitcoin? Probably not with the current version of Bit-



This undated photo shows Mike Venuto, co-portfolio manager of the Amplify Transformational Data Sharing ETF.

Associated Press

coin. It's largely become a store of value. But with other cryptocurrencies, we are seeing use cases like that. □

50 countries vow to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030

By SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — At least 50 countries committed to protecting 30% of the planet, including land and sea, over the next decade to halt species extinction and address climate change issues, during a global summit Monday aimed at protecting the world's biodiversity.

About 30 leaders, government officials and heads of international organizations participated in the One Planet Summit, which was being held by videoconference because of the coronavirus pandemic. Top U.S. officials were notably absent, as were the leaders of Russia, India and Brazil.

French President Emmanuel Macron announced that the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, which was launched in 2019 by Costa Rica, France and Britain to set a target of protecting at least 30% of the planet by 2030, has now been joined by 50 countries.

A 2019 U.N. report on biodiversity showed that human activities are putting nature in more trouble now than at any other time in human history, with extinction looming for over 1 million species of plants and animals.

"We know even more clearly amid the crisis we are going through that all our vulnerabilities are interrelated," Macron said. "Pressure on nature exerted by human activities is increasing inequalities and threatening our health and our security."

"We can change the story if we decide to do it," he added.

The one-day summit focused on four major topics: protecting terrestrial



A grey seal and her pup on the beach at Horsey Gap in Norfolk, England, Sunday Jan. 10, 2021. Associated Press

and marine ecosystems; promoting agroecology, a more sustainable way to grow food; increasing funding to protect biodiversity; and identifying links between deforestation and the health of humans and animals.

The summit also launched a program called PREZODE which Macron presented as an unprecedented international initiative to prevent the emergence of zoonotic diseases and pandemics, which is already mobilizing over 400 researchers and experts across the world. The move comes as scientists suspect that the coronavirus that first infected people in China last year came from an animal source, probably bats.

"Pandemic recovery is our chance to change course," U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres said. "With smart policies and the right investments, we can chart a path that brings health to all, revives

economies, builds resilience and rescues biodiversity."

Guterres also stressed that according to the World Economic Forum, emerging business opportunities across nature could create 191 million jobs by 2030.

Other leaders at the summit were German Chancellor Angela Merkel, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Canadian Prime Min-

ister Justin Trudeau. China, represented by Vice Premier Han Zheng, agreed that "collective efforts" are needed.

The event, organized by France, the United Nations and the World Bank, took place without top U.S. officials, as President-elect Joe Biden, a strong proponent of climate issues, does not take office until Jan. 20. During his campaign, Biden

pledged to better protect biodiversity by preserving 30% of American lands and waters by 2030.

Monday's talks sought to prepare negotiations on biodiversity targets at a U.N. conference on biodiversity in China in October, after it was postponed last year due to the pandemic. The U.N.'s global climate summit, the COP26, has also been rescheduled for November in the U.K.

A side conference on Monday focused on investment for Africa's Great Green Wall project, which involves gigantic efforts to stop the Sahara Desert from spreading further south.

Participants welcomed the creation of a so-called accelerator, which is expected to release \$14.3 billion over the next five years to finance the program. Launched in 2007, it aims to plant an arc of trees running 7,000 kilometers (4,350 miles) across Africa — from Senegal along the Atlantic all the way to Djibouti on the Gulf of Aden.

Another initiative involves a new coalition of Mediterranean countries working to better protect the sea from pollution and overfishing. □

Deal reached on project to protect lakes from invasive fish

By JOHN FLESHER AP Environmental Writer

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — Michigan, Illinois and a federal agency have agreed on funding the next phase of an initiative to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes by strengthening defenses on a Chicago-area waterway, officials said Thursday. The two states and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will share pre-construction engineering and design costs for the \$858 million project at Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet, Illinois. The structure on the Des Plaines River is a choke point between the Illinois River, which is infested with the invasive carp, and Lake Michigan.

A plan approved by the Corps in 2019 calls for installing a gantlet of technologies to deter approaching fish, including electric barriers and underwater speakers that would blast loud noises, plus an "air bubble curtain." A specially designed "flushing lock" would wash away carp that might be floating on the water



In this June 13, 2012, file photo, Asian carp, jolted by an electric current from a research boat, jump from the Illinois River near Havana, Ill. Associated Press

as vessels pass through.

The next step is developing design and engineering specifications, expected to take three to four years and cost about \$28.8 million.

Under the new agreement, the Corps will pay \$18 million and Michigan \$8 million. Illinois will chip in \$2.5 million and serve as the "non-federal sponsor" required for such projects. □

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A theater of propaganda: The Capitol, cameras and selfies

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the defining images of the Capitol Hill siege was of a man dangling from the balcony of the Senate chamber. Clad in black and with a helmet over his head, he might have been hard to identify even after he paused to sit in a leather chair at the top of the Senate dais and hold up a fist. But Josiah Colt made it easy. He posted a video to his Facebook page moments later, bragging about being the first to reach the chamber floor and sit in Nancy's Pelosi's chair (he was wrong). He used a slur to describe Pelosi and called her "a traitor." A little later the 34-year-old from Boise, Idaho, posted again. This time, he sounded more anxious. "I don't know what to do," Colt said in a video he'd soon delete but not before it was cached online. "I'm in downtown D.C. I'm all over the news now." Colt was far from the only one documenting the insurrection from within last Wednesday in Washington. Many in the mob that ransacked the Capitol did so while livestreaming, posting on Facebook and taking selfies, turning the United States Capitol into a theater of real-time — and often strikingly ugly and violent — far-right propaganda. "This extremist loop feeds



Trump supporters use cell phones to make images of a man injured during a protest with police, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

itself. The folks who are watching and commenting and encouraging and sometimes giving some cash are supporting the individual on the ground. And he's supporting their fantasies," says Oren Segal, vice president of the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism. "Selfie culture," Segal says, "has become so much part of the norm that it's almost second nature when you're carrying out a terrorist insurrection." Taken together, the various fragmented feeds from Wednesday's incursion form a tableau of an ill-conceived insurrection — as full of "I was here" posturing for social media as of ideological revolution — and one that was given far more latitude than most peaceful

Black Lives Matters protests were in 2020. In hundreds of images, the fallacy of a far-right brand of "patriotism" was laid bare. The modern Capitol had previously been besieged before only in Hollywood fiction. Marauding aliens in "Mars Attacks!" Ensnaring ivy in "Logan's Run." Blown to bits in "Independence Day." But the imagery of last week's siege offered something else: a warped cinema verité of right-wing extremism with waving Confederate flags and white-power poses in Capitol halls. Though many involved Wednesday in Washington were Trump supporters without designs on violence, the visuals illustrate that some were clearly there to summon mayhem

if not outright bloodshed. The call to the Capitol drew many of the right's extremist factions — some of whom helped lead the charge. The white nationalist Tim Gionet, known online as "Baked Alaska" and a noted participant in the "Unite the Right" rally at Charlottesville, streamed live from congressional offices, gleefully documenting the break-in for more than 15,000 viewers on the streaming platform Dlive. The service, ostensibly for gamers, has grown into a tool for white nationalists because of its lack of content modulation. Journalists chronicled the storming of the Capitol, some while being attacked. But the rioters' self-documentation told another

er story: the on-the-ground culmination of an online alternative reality fueled by QAnon conspiracies, false claims of fraud in the election and Trump's own rhetoric.

"In their minds they had impunity. I'm having trouble understanding how these people could believe that," says Larry Rosenthal, chair of the Berkeley Center for Right-Wing Studies and author of the upcoming "Empire of Resentment: Populism's Toxic Embrace of Nationalism."

"They're going to be prosecuted," he says of those involved, and "they have provided the evidence."

Federal law enforcement officials have pledged an exhaustive investigation into the rampage that left five people dead, including Capitol Police officer Brian D. Sicknick. They are relying in part on the social media trail many left behind. "The goal here is to identify people and get them," Ken Kohl, the top deputy federal prosecutor in Washington, told reporters Friday.

Among those arrested so far are Richard Barnett, photographed sitting in Pelosi's office with his feet on her desk, and Derrick Evans, a newly elected Republican from West Virginia, who had posted video on social media of himself clamoring at the Capitol door. "We're in! Keep it moving, baby!" □

Harris team says it was blindsided by VP-elect's Vogue cover



This combination of photos released by Vogue shows images of Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on the cover of their February digital and print issues.

Associated Press

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Vice President-elect Ka-

mala Harris has landed on the cover of the February issue of Vogue magazine, but her team says there's

a problem: the shot of the country's soon-to-be No. 2 leader isn't what both sides had agreed upon, her team says.

Instead of the powder blue power suit Harris wore for her cover shoot, the first African American woman elected vice president is instead seen in more casual attire and wearing Converse Chuck Taylor sneakers, which she sometimes wore on the campaign trail. Harris' team was unaware that the cover photo had been switched until images leaked late Satur-

day, according to a person involved in the negotiations over how Harris would be featured on the cover. Harris' office declined comment and the person spoke Sunday on condition of anonymity.

In a statement, Vogue said it went with the more informal image of Harris for the cover because the photo captured her "authentic, approachable nature, which we feel is one of the hallmarks of the Biden-Harris administration."

Harris, who is of Jamaican and Indian descent,

posed in the light blue suit in front of a gold backdrop for the magazine's cover. She also posed, more casually dressed in slacks, a blazer and sneakers in front of a pink and green background, for photos that were planned for inside the magazine, the person said. Pink and green are the colors of Harris' college sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha. Vogue has released both images online, but the photo of a sneaker-clad Harris is the one that will grace the cover of the fashion bible's print edition. □

English wins Kapalua in playoff for 1st victory in 7 years

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)

— Harris English was that player who always wanted the ball for the last shot. His trouble the last couple of years was getting off the bench and into the game. English completed his turnaround from a seven-year drought with a victory that he felt was long overdue, making a 6-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole against Joaquin Niemann to win the Sentry Tournament of Champions. He had the ball. And he was clutch.

He ran off four birdies in a five-hole stretch on the back nine to catch Niemann. Needing a birdie on the 18th at Kapalua, English hit a 3-iron so pure from a downhill lie that it rolled out to 10 feet for an eagle putt that he narrowly missed, settling for a 4-under 69 to force extra holes.

In the playoff, he lagged a long putt from off the front of the green to 6 feet for the winner.

"When I was a kid, I loved having the ball when the clock's running out in basketball," English said. "I love — I love — the situations, and I crave getting back into that. I hadn't had it in a long time. ... You've got to have confidence in yourself."



Harris English holds the champions trophy after the final round of the Tournament of Champions golf event, Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021, at Kapalua Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii.

Associated Press

Niemann did his part with a 9-under 64, matching the low score of the tournament, impressive considering the blustery wind finally showed up on the Plantation Course for the final day.

But he missed a 6-foot birdie putt on the 18th that cost him. And on the same hole in the playoff, with a 30-yard advantage off the tee, he tugged his shot just enough that it tumbled down the shaggy slope left of the 18th. A full swing with a lob wedge only got it up the hill to the fringe, and his

birdie attempt from 15 feet was short. "I had a perfect line the second shot, I just mishit it a little bit," Niemann said. "I got a little lucky that it carried the hazard and then it was not an easy lie." Niemann started the final round five shots behind and would have been happy at the start of the day to be in a playoff. But he couldn't help but think of the 18th. "I just look back and I see those two par 5s. I made par."

They finished at 25-under 267. It was the second straight year the tourna-

ment was decided by a playoff.

English once was among the rising American starts, winning a Nationwide Tour event while still an amateur and picking up two victories in 2013. But then he got into a funk, and he fell so far that he lost his full card in 2019 and was No. 369 in the world. He played so well from there that he reached the Tour Championship, and it paid off in a big way.

In a normal year, English wouldn't be at Kapalua for the winners-only start to

the year. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic that shut down the PGA Tour for three months, the field was expanded to include anyone who reached the Tour Championship. Niemann also didn't win last year.

But the fact he made it to the Tour Championship speaks to his turnaround. He did everything but win last season, and then he took care of that in the first tournament of the year. English now goes to No. 17 in the world, a career-best. "It's awesome to get some validation," English said.

Justin Thomas stayed in the mix one day after he was heard uttering a homophobic slur under his breath after missing a short putt. Thomas apologized, and did so again after a 66 left him one shot out of the playoff.

He missed an 8-foot birdie chance on the 16th, and then three-putted from long range on the 17th for bogey. A birdie on the final hole wasn't enough.

Dustin Johnson, in his first start since winning the Masters on Nov. 15, made an early run until he lost a tee shot in the native grass on No. 12 and made double bogey. He shot 69 and tied for 11th, ending his streak of seven consecutive top 10s dating to the first week in August. □

80% say Tokyo Olympics should be called off or won't happen

By STEPHEN WADE

AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP)

— More than 80% of people in Japan who were surveyed in two polls in the last few days say the Tokyo Olympics should be canceled or postponed, or say they believe the Olympics will not take place.

The polls were conducted by the Japanese news agency Kyodo and TBS — the Tokyo Broadcasting System.

The results are bad news for Tokyo organizers and the International Olympic Committee as they continue to say the postponed Olympics will open on July 23.

Tokyo is battling a surge of COVID-19 cases that prompted the national government last week to call a state of emergency. In declaring the emergency, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said he was confident the Olympics would be held.

Japan has controlled the virus relatively well but the surge has heightened skepticism about the need for the Olympics and the danger of potentially bringing 15,000 Olympic and Paralympic athletes into the country.

The Olympics could also attract tens of thousands of coaches, judges, officials, VIPs, sponsors, media and

broadcasters. It is not clear if fans from abroad will be allowed, or if local fans will attend events.

Japan has attributed about 3,800 deaths to COVID-19 in a country of 126 million. The TBS poll asked if the Olympics can be held. In the telephone survey with 1,261 responding, 81% replied "no" with only 13% answering "yes." The "no" responses increased 18 percentage points from a similar survey in December. In Kyodo's poll, 80.1% of respondents in a telephone survey said the Olympics should be canceled or rescheduled. The same question in December found 63% calling for cancellation



In this Dec. 1, 2020, file photo, the Olympic Symbol is reinstalled after it was taken down for maintenance ahead of the postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympics in the Odaiba section in Tokyo.

Associated Press

or postponement.

Kyodo said the survey covered 715 randomly select-

ed households with eligible voters. Neither poll listed a margin of error. □

End of an era? Steelers facing big questions after loss

By **WILL GRAVES**

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Ben Roethlisberger and Maurkice Pouncey sat on the bench, their 11th season together over. Their future uncertain. Their pain obvious.

The end of the 2020 season wasn't supposed to come so quickly. Yet it barreled down on the Pittsburgh Steelers from the first snap of a 48-37 wild-card loss to Cleveland on Sunday night, the one that Pouncey sent sailing over Roethlisberger's head and into the end zone. Cleveland's Karl Joseph fell on it for a touchdown. The mistakes, the one the Steelers had either avoided or survived during their 11-0 start, rapidly piled up. One Roethlisberger interception became two. Then three. Then eventually, four. A seven-point deficit quickly ballooned to 28. And the optimism of an unbeaten run through November faded into the reality of another playoff cameo in January. Three years ago, the Jaguars came into Heinz Field and stunned the AFC's second seed. This time, it was the resurgent Browns — making their first postseason appearance in 18 years — who provided the unexpected whipping. Cleveland players ran off the turf shouting "Same Old Browns" knowing they looked anything but while the 38-year-old Roethlisberger and the 31-year-old Pouncey pondered what comes next.

"I hated that it ended the way it did," Roethlisberger said. "I wanted to win it for him." Asked to clarify what was ending, Roethlisberger stressed it was just the season. Maybe, but there's a very real chance that a major shift is on the way for a franchise that typically does little more than tweak.



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) sits on the bench next to center Maurkice Pouncey (53) following a 48-37 loss to the Cleveland Browns in an NFL wild-card playoff football game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021.

Associated Press

"We are in uncharted territory, to say the least," defensive end Cam Heyward said. "Changes have to be made." The Steelers (12-5) hoped to put off the tough questions about what direction the club will head in 2021 for at least a month. Instead, they're here following a historic playoff meltdown. Cleveland's 48 points were the most ever allowed by the Steelers in the postseason. The defense that led the NFL in sacks for a fourth straight year and has a regular-season sack streak that dates back to 2016 failed to take Mayfield down once. "It was all terrible out there," Heyward said.

The offense that sputtered so much during the second half of the year didn't spring to life until the Steelers trailed by 28. By then it was too late. The closest Pittsburgh got to making it competitive came on the first play of the fourth quarter. Facing

fourth-and-1 at the Pittsburgh 46 and down just 35-23, head coach Mike Tomlin opted to punt.

"I wanted to pin them down and maybe provide a short field for their offense," Tomlin said. "I just wanted to keep the momentum going in terms of field positioning." Like just about everything else the Steelers tried at a sparse Heinz Field, it didn't work. Jordan Berry's kick hit at the 2 and trickled into the end zone. Mayfield quickly guided the Browns 80 yards and the deficit was back up to 19. Roethlisberger's final pick with 3:16 remaining sealed it. "Obviously you can't turn the ball over and it kills your team, kills your chances," Roethlisberger said. The question is what comes next? Roethlisberger set an NFL playoff record by completing 47 passes. His 501 yards were the second-most ever in the postseason. A year removed from right elbow

surgery, he led the Steelers to an AFC North title and threw it over 600 times. Tomlin believes Roethlisberger can still play at a high level. So does the only constant he's had in his 14 seasons on the job. The list of factors Roethlisberger will take into account while trying to decide whether to return next spring isn't short.

"A lot of praying, a lot of talking," Roethlisberger said. "I still have a year left on my contract. I hope the Steelers want me back if that's the way we go."

The economics, however, are tricky. Roethlisberger has a cap hit of over \$41 million next year, nearly a quarter of the entire salary cap. The teams the Steelers are competing with in the AFC all have quarterbacks who are far younger and — with the exception of Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes — far cheaper. That flexibility gives them chances to spend money elsewhere. The Steelers might not have that luxury.

Outside linebacker Bud Dupree, wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster, running back James Conner and left tackle Al Villanueva are all impending free agents, among others. The holes on the roster Pittsburgh will have to fill next season could be many whether Roethlisberger returns or not. It was a discussion they hoped to put off for as long as possible. As Roethlisberger and Pouncey got up, slowly walked off the field and into the tunnel, that discussion is now here. "It's tough to lose guys in our locker room who have done great things on and off the field," Heyward said. "And you know, that unknown just kills me. To squander an opportunity like that and to know we didn't play our brand of football." □

Trump to honor Belichick with Presidential Medal of Freedom



In this Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020, file photo, New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick yells from the sideline during the second half of an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Rams in Inglewood, Calif.

Associated Press

By **KEVIN FREKING**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will present one of the nation's highest civilian honors to Bill Belichick, the football coach of the New England Patriots and the only coach to win six Super Bowl titles.

The presentation of the Presidential Medal of Freedom is expected Thursday, a White House official confirmed on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Trump and Belichick have known each other for several years with Trump before his campaign victory in 2016 reading a letter of praise from Belichick at a New Hampshire rally. Belichick said afterward he was not a political person and that he had "a friendship and loyalty to Donald."

Trump has selected a string of sports figures and political backers for the award of late.

He has often held grand presentation ceremonies for the award, but recent

ceremonies have taken place in private.

Trump has generally avoided the press since his election loss.

Belichick is undoubtedly one of the most successful football coaches in NFL history and owns the most wins among active coaches.

The Bill Belichick Foundation also provides scholarship and grant funds to help underprivileged youth participate in sports programs.

Politico first reported about the honor for Belichick. □